

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An end closure assembly for a pressure vessel, the end closure assembly comprising:

a non-metal universal head member positioned in an opening in the pressure vessel, wherein the universal head member has a size complementary to the opening in the pressure vessel;

a retainer ring member engaged with the pressure vessel for retaining the universal head member in the opening in the pressure vessel; and

a securing plate member engaged with the universal head member and the retainer ring member ~~for securing the retainer ring member, the securing plate member including a tubular boss having an internally threaded portion and the universal head member including a tubular element having an externally threaded portion, the externally threaded portion located a distance from a distal end of the tubular element;~~

wherein the retainer ring member includes three individual and separate arced elements, each of the arced elements having at least one end linked to an end of another of the arced elements, the arced elements being movable relative to each other to facilitate insertion of the retainer ring member into the pressure vessel.

2. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 1, further comprising an elliptical head member.

3. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 2, wherein the elliptical head member is in contact with the universal head member.

4. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the universal head member further comprises an integral access section.

5. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the retainer ring member is non-metal.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the universal head member is plastic.

10. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the universal head member comprises a domed-shaped element and a tubular element.

11. (Original) The end closure assembly of claim 10, wherein the tubular element comprises a threaded portion.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein two of the arced elements substantially mirror each other in shape.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The end closure assembly of claim 1, wherein the retainer ring member defines concentric outer and inner portions, the outer portion having a greater diameter than the inner portion, the outer portion engaging the pressure vessel.

16. (Currently Amended) An end closure assembly for a pressure vessel, the end closure assembly comprising:

a non-metal universal head member positioned in an opening in the pressure vessel, the universal head member including a domed-shaped element and a tubular element, the dome-shaped element having a size complementary to the opening in the pressure vessel, the dome-shaped element defining a convex surface and a concave surface opposite the convex surface, the tubular element including an inner section extending away from the convex surface and an outer section extending away from the concave surface, the outer section having an externally threaded portion, the tubular element having a passageway extending through the inner and outer sections;

a retainer ring member engaged with the pressure vessel for retaining the universal head member in the opening in the pressure vessel, the retainer ring member including three individual and separate arced elements, each of the arced elements having at least one end linked to an end of another of the arced elements, the arced elements being movable relative to each other to facilitate insertion of the retainer ring member into the pressure vessel, the retainer ring member defining concentric outer and inner portions, the ~~out~~ outer portion having a greater diameter than the inner portion, the outer portion engaging the pressure vessel; and

a securing plate member engaged with the universal head member and the retainer ring member, the securing plate member including a tubular boss having an internally threaded portion complementary to the tubular element of the universal head member, the securing plate member engaging the tubular element at the externally threaded portion, the externally threaded portion located a distance from a distal end of the tubular element of the universal head member and the securing plate member holding ~~the first at least a~~ portion of the retainer ring member in engagement with the pressure vessel.